

DAHLIA PLANT NAMED 'MAURITIUS'

Genus and species of the plant claimed:

Dahlia hortorum

5 Variety denomination:

Mauritius

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present Invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar of *Dahlia* plant, botanically known as *Dahlia hortorum*, and hereinafter referred to by the name 'Mauritius'. The new cultivar 'Mauritius' is a product of a planned breeding program and was selected by the Inventor, Jan Skjold Knudsen, in Fyn, Denmark.

Asexual reproduction by cuttings of the new variety in Fyn, Denmark has demonstrated that the combination of characteristics as described herein for 'Mauritius' are firmly fixed and are retained through successive generations of asexual reproduction. The new variety reproduces true to type.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

'Mauritius' has not been tested under all available environmental conditions and the phenotype may vary with variations in environmental conditions such as temperature, light intensity, day length and humidity, without a change in genotype of the plant.

The following traits have been repeatedly observed and are determined to be the unique characteristics of 'Mauritius'. The following characteristics in combination distinguish 'Mauritius' as a new and distinct cultivar:

1. Red-purple flower color, RHS 65A, yellow base 5C;

2. Leaf length up to 16 cm; leaf width 14 cm;
3. Compact plant habit; and
4. Vigorous growth habit.

Of the commercial cultivars known to the Inventor, the most similar in
5 comparison to 'is a *Dahlia* variety named 'Anne' (unpatented). 'Anne' has about half
the number of flowers and buds per plant in comparison to 'Mauritius'.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The accompanying color photographs illustrate the overall appearance and
details of flower form color and structures of the new cultivar, showing the colors as
10 true as it is reasonably possible to obtain in color reproductions of this type. Colors in
the photographs may differ slightly from the color values cited in the detailed
botanical description, which more accurately describe the actual colors of the new
Dahlia.

The first photograph is a side view of a typical flowering plant of 'Mauritius'
15 as grown in an 11 cm pot. The second photograph is a top view of a typical flowering
plant of 'Mauritius'. The third photograph is a close-up of the flower of 'Mauritius'.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The following observations, measurements and values describe 8 week old
plants grown under commercial conditions. Plants described were grown in a
20 greenhouse in Fyn, Denmark with average day temperatures of 18 °C to 25 °C, and
night temperature of 16 °C. All color references are measured against the Royal
Horticultural Society (RHS) Colour Chart. Colors are approximate as color depends
on horticultural practices such as light level and treatment rate, among others, without
however any variance in genotype.

PLANT:

- Form: Globular, upright
- Height: 20 cm
- Spread: 20 cm
- 5 Natural flowering season: Summer to fall
- Crop time: After rooting, about 10 - 12 weeks are required to produce
finished flowering plants in 11 cm pots
- Plant vigor: Vigorous
- Root structure: Fibrous
- 10 Stem: Yellow-green RHS 144, glabrous
- Lateral branches: 12 in quantity; 7-10 mm diameter; 14 cm in length
(including flower)
- Internode length: 3 cm
- Foliage:
- 15 Quantity: 4 – 5 pairs per lateral branch
- Arrangement: Opposite, decussate
- Length: Up to 16 cm
- Width: 14 cm
- Shape: Elliptical, acuminate tip, decurrent base, crenate margin
- 20 Texture: Glabrous
- Color: Upper side: green RHS 137 A (both mature and immature);
underside gray-green RHS 191 C (immature), RHS 191B
(mature)
- Vein color: Upper side 138C; under side yellow-green RHS 144B

Petiole: 2 – 3 cm in length; 5 – 8 mm diameter; color RHS 144A

FLOWER:

Arrangement: Composite flowers in leaf axils

Inflorescence type: Capitulum

5 Inflorescence height: 3 – 4 cm

Inflorescence width: 7 – 8 cm

Flowering habit: Upright

Quantity of flowers: 2 per lateral stem

Flower longevity: 7 days on the plant

10 **Bud:**

Quantity: 3 per lateral stem

Shape: Globular

Size: Up to 2 cm in length, 1 cm diameter

Color: RHS 144C

15 **Petal:**

Appearance: Disc, tubular to single, fused petal

Shape: Disc, lanceolate; ray oval, slightly involute

Number: Disc, 5 fused; ray, 5 fused

Length: Disc 2 – 5 mm, ray 25 mm

20 Width: Disc 2 mm, ray 19 mm

Margin: Entire

Apex: Rounded

Color: Immature upper side, red-purple RHS 68C with yellow base,
RHS 5D; immature under side, light red-purple RHS 69B;

mature upper side, red-purple RHS 65A, yellow base 5C;

mature under side RHS 65D

Sepals:

- 5 Length: 14 mm
- Width: 9 mm
- Margin: Entire
- Base: Fused
- Apex: Rounded
- 10 Color: Immature upper side RHS 138A; immature under side RHS
 143D with stripes RHS 143A; mature upper side RHS 137A;
 under side RHS 191B with stripes RHS 143A

Calyx: 2 mm length, 1.5 cm diameter

Peduncle: 8 cm length, 3 mm diameter; strength: strong; color RHS 144C with
 stripes RHS 144A

15 Reproductive organs:

- Anthers: 4 mm in length, RHS 23B
- Pollen: RHS 14A
- Pistils: 1 disc, 1 ray per floret, 15 mm length
- Stigma: RHS 14A
- 20 Style: 10 mm length, RHS 1B
- Ovary: RHS 150B

Temperature tolerance: High tolerance to 35 °C; low tolerance to 0 °C